

**Remarks**

Applicant has read and considered the Office Action dated August 13, 2003 and the references cited therein. Claims 38-44, 46 and 47 have now been canceled.

In the Action, claims 38-44 and 46-47 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wood in view of Thompson and Northrup et al. Claims 38-44 and 46-47 have been canceled. Applicant asserts that the rejection is moot.

Claims 1-37 were allowed. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the allowance of these claims.

The Office Action also included reasons for allowance. Applicant includes comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance herewith.

As all of the rejected claims have been canceled, Applicant asserts that the application is in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is hereby solicited. If the Examiner feels that a telephone interview may be helpful in this matter, please contact Applicant's representative at 612.336.4728.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.  
P.O. Box 2903  
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903  
612/332-5300

Date: 1/13/04

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gregory A. Sebald  
Reg. No. 33,280  
GAS/krn

RECEIVED  
JAN 22 2004  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800  
U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

RECEIVED  
JAN 22 2004  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800  
U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE